The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The less men think the more they talk.—Montesquieu.

WHOLE NO. 926. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 18, NO. 43.

## GOMPERS MEMORIAL WILL TYPIFY AMERICAN IDEAL

The proposed Gompers Memorial, to be erected by the American Federation of Labor in Washington, will be more than a testimonial to the memory of a man.

It will typify an ideal.

Samuel Gompers was an American in the best meaning of the term. He was intolerant against private paternalism and government aid to those who should develop their faculties and help themselves.

He never roamed after a fruitless quest, nor did he lure men into strange paths by fanciful pictures.

He dreamed of better days, but he keyed his enthusiasm to the stern realities of life.

He knew social philosophy, its history and its development—that gains only come through a social consciousness and new viewpoints, that are developed by agitation and enlightened self-interest.

He knew the basis of law and of progress.

He was grounded in the fact that law is an expression of outlooks and that every statute must rest on the needs, the experiences and necessities of the people. Hence his constant plea that workers agitate, organize and educate.

Samuel Gompers was alert to the ageing tendency of governmental institutions to enlarge their power over the individual.

He knew this makes men rigid, deadens the will and creates narrow conformists.

His life was an opposition to that tendency.

He knew freedom and its values.

He was called a "conservative" and a "step-at-a-timer" by those who ignore human experience.

As a citizen and as a trade unionist he combatted autocracy in every form and in every guise.

The slightest suggestion or most artful device that tended in that direction aroused every fibre in his being.

To him the Declaration of Independence was not dead parchment. It was a Living Thing that stirred in him visions of freedom and the longings of every patriot, prophet and seer.

He resisted every effort to "governmentalize" the American Federation of Labor. He refused to be an order giver. He refused power over his fellows. He would serve, but he would not control.

What he did was great, but what he refused to do was greater.

He wrought his life principle into the fabric of the American organized labor movement. It is unique in the world's trade unions.

This memorial will honor an outstanding American, and will serve as a reminder that through Samuel Gompers the American ideal was woven into the warp and woof of our trade union movement.

The Gompers Memorial will also honor all creative labor. It will be the first of its kind in this country and will be most appropriately placed in the nation's capital.

Trade unionists and all other believers in the American ideal should contribute to a monument that will fittingly represent a man and his many-sided cause.

## GOMPERS MEMORIAL IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, Jan. 5.—An appeal for funds to erect a monument to the memory of the late Samuel Gompers has been issued to the organized labor movement and friends of the former A. F. of L. president.

The appeal is signed by President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison by direction of the New Orleans convention and the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

Funds will be collected during this month, because January 27 is the birthday of the former trade unionist.

Congress has authorized erection of the monument on government property near the A. F. of L. building in this city.

"No person associated with our great labor movement occupies as large a place in the hearts and minds of all classes of people as does the memory of Samuel Gompers," the appeal states. "He was a great leader, humanitarian, patriot and scholar. In erecting a beautiful memorial in the capital city of our nation we are honoring our lamented officer and leader, and, in addition, we are doing honor to our great labor movement.

"We plan to raise money sufficient to erect a monument which will be creditable to the organized labor movement and which will appropriately express the fraternity and brotherhood represented by the A. F. of L.

"Contributions shall be forwarded to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., Washington, D. C."

## ORGANIZED WORKERS ARE BEST QUALIFIED

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 5.—Organized workers are better qualified than unorganized to present industrial disputes, according to the Porto Rican Mediation and Conciliation Commission.

"From its own experience," the report states, "this commission knows that organized laborers show more handiness and intelligence in discussing their matters than disorganized laborers, making it easier to reach an understanding without the intervention of the board.

"We must declare that striking laborers have accepted the services of this commission every time they have been offered to them. Of late, the majority of the employers have also accepted them, and it is gratifying to state that the number of employers accepting our intervention increases every year in a remarkable proportion.

The commission stated that where workers are unorganized the solution of the strike appears more difficult."

## MANY DEPENDENT AGED PROVE PENSION NEED

New York, Jan. 5.—There are at least 2,350 aged men and women in this city outside of institutions who are receiving financial aid from social agencies, according to the Research Bureau of the Welfare Council of New York.

Probably 1,000 more are receiving help from churches and the care of these persons approximate $378,000, it is stated. None of the persons included in these figures receive pensions or benefits.

## LEGAL STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY MUST MEET CHANGED METHODS

New York, Jan. 5.—"Much of that part of our social fabric which is called the law needs overhauling," said Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, in his annual report.

The educator declared democracy has a long way to go before "the maxims and the ideals of the political philosophers who first expounded and extolled it are even measurably illustrated and attained."

"Ignorance, intolerance, bigotry, bitter partisanship and stupendous self-conceit and self-satisfaction are manifest on every side," he said.

"It is of no great comfort to be reminded that during the height of the political warfare between the Federalists and the first Republicans the language of extreme bitterness and villification was constantly used.

"Much has changed since these days. Schools, colleges, universities, libraries, institutes, lyceums and like organizations of a score of kinds abound on every side. Why have not they by their vast effort brought to the public mind a much greater measure of reasonableness, a much larger use of scientific and scholarly methods in the examination and discussion of public policies and a much greater sense of fairness as well as sobriety of temper in the presence of disputed and highly contentious questions?

"The public mind needs a constant spur to self-examination, to self-criticism and to self-control over self-expression. If this can not come as the result of the educational system of the land, from where is it to come?

"If the emotional illusions and the intellectual barrenness of our current political campaigns could be put away, and if the American people would discipline themselves to look facts in the face, the political life of the nation would take on a much finer form."

Dr. Butler said "it must never be forgotten" that the political plane of the country would be much higher if the public demanded it. He said new laws is not the cure for our increased lawlessness. "The present task," he declared, "is to examine the legal structure of society in the light of its present-day moral, economic and business structure and to ascertain where the path of progress begins and in what direction it leads."

## In Memoriam, 1928

Barnard A. Abrams, executive board United Garment Workers.

William Ashton, representative Brotherhood of Teamsters.

W. S. Burchfield, organizer United Garment Workers.

Joseph Barondes, active in New York City Jewish labor movement a generation ago.

Sara A. Conboy, secretary-treasurer United Garment Workers.

John G. Coughlin, secretary New York Trades and Labor Council.

John E. Connolly, vice president Journeymen Barbers' International Union.

Edward J. Connelly, one of small group who organized Grocers' Equity Association.

D. L. Cease, editor Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen's Journal.

William Cunliff, vice president International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

James Duncan, first vice president A. F. of L.

Edward L. Dobbins, executive board United Mine Workers.

William J. Devine, representative Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union.

Mr. Delbanne, vice president International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union.

Edward J. Evans, vice president Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

James Glasson, executive board District No. 1, United Mine Workers.

George F. Hedrick president Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.

Frank A. Kennedy, old-time labor editor, member International Typographical Union.

S. Tyson Kinsell, vice president National Federation of Federal Employes.

Bernard A. Larger, secretary-treasurer United Garment Workers.

Martin McGraw, executive board International Union of Operating Cotton Mill Workers.

Richard H. Metcalf, financier International Molders' Union.

Martin McGraw, executive board International Union of Operating Cotton Mill Workers.

Henry Nolda, organizer Upholsterers' International Union.

W. A. Neer, secretary Chicago Milk Wagon Drivers' Union.

John O'Neil, vice president International Molders' Union.

Max Pine, secretary United Hebrew Trades, New York City.

John Pinna, organizer United Garment Workers.

Edmund J. Reid, vice president Metal Polishers' International Union.

Jere L. Sullivan, secretary-treasurer Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America.

Alex S. Strachan, former executive board Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

Charles H. Stevens, former vice president Cigarmakers' International Union.

Andrew Steele, executive board United Mine Workers.

Edgar Wallace, legislative representative A. F. of L. and former editor United Mine Workers' Journal.

## BEGGING IS GENERAL IN NORTHWEST CITY

Minneapolis, Jan. 5.—"There is a larger volume of organized begging to supposedly care for the jobless in this city than in any other city of its size in the country," declared William J. McSorley, president Building Trades Department, A. F. of L.

Mr. McSorley said this condition is traceable to anti-unionism, misnamed "American" plan and the "open" shop.

"Where anti-union conditions prevail, low wages, less consuming power and poverty is the rule," said Mr. McSorley. "Organized begging is relief of consequent suffering in no remedy. Business men should insist that industry pay a living wage, rather than contribute for the benefit of employers who pay below that standard."

## PELLAGRA CONQUEROR STRICKEN WITH ANEMIA

Washington, Jan. 5.—Dr. Joseph Goldberger, United States Public Health Service physician and conqueror of pellagra, is seriously ill in this city with an unknown disease.

Twenty of his fellow scientists volunteered for blood transfusions to save the life of the man who discovered that pellagra is caused by an unbalanced diet. This disease was prevalent in the South and Dr. Goldberger made his discoveries in course of investigation while in charge of field investigation of the Federal Health Service.

## COLLEGE SALARIES LOW

New York, Jan. 5.—Salaries of teachers in the higher branches of learning are inadequate, speakers at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference declared. A survey of 302 colleges of arts, literature and science showed that the average salary for the year 1926-27 was $2,958.

## PRIVATE AID FUTILE TO EUROPEAN JOBLESS

Washington, Jan. 5.—It is the experience of practically all European countries that private employment agencies can not meet the job-seeking problem, according to a study by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Twenty-three foreign countries have a nation-wide system of employment exchanges, the best developed being in Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Denmark, Germany and Norway.

Private employment exchanges charging a fee are apt to take advantage of the distressed conditions of unemployed by charging unduly large fees, or by entering into collusion with dishonest small employers, usually in unskilled occupations, for the purpose of splitting the fees and applying a "chain" method, that is, men are hired and again soon discharged, the report states.

"These private exchanges are separate and distinct from organized labor market to any degree. Laws regulating their business and help much, but only to a limited can be found to evade the regulations.

"The inadequacy of the private labor exchanges, as above indicated, has led almost all European countries to establish public labor exchanges—commercial or municipal, provincial and state.

"Great Britain was the first country to establish a national system of public labor exchanges directly controlled by the state, by the labor exchange act of 1909."

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS WORLD PEACE MENACE

New York, Jan. 5.—The struggle for world markets is a standing menace to world peace, declared Salvador de Madariaga, former chief of the disarmament section of the League of Nations.

Senor Madariaga is an advocate of the League of Nations. In today generating his position, he said, so he might feel free to press his advocacy of disarmament. Articles by this British peace assail what he terms "the growing tendency of the larger powers" to be the league.

Rivalry in international trade which had plenty of room for expansion in the past, he said, is today generating such "a terrific heat from close quarters that some sort of international disarmament must be found out these difficulties of competition or disarmament never will be a reality."

## LEFT WING UNIONS UNITE

New York, Jan. 5.—Left wing unions in the fur-making and cloak industry have united. The movement is avowedly Communistic and was launched with the usual hurrah against the regular trade union movement. The organization is called the Amalgamated Union of Cloak, Dressmakers and Furriers. Its backers picture the same glorious future that has marked the launching of countless similar ventures.

Employers who face an expiring contract with the regular International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union smile at this division of the workers.

## WHAT IS FREE SPEECH?

Trade unions have a specific purpose—to organize wage workers, raise living standards and correct social wrongs.

We claim the right—as do other citizens who are grouped in voluntary associations—to adopt such lawful policies as will advance our cause.

Our trade unions are not a shelter for advocates of the millennium, of flabby liberalism or diluted autocracy.

If these "have a message for the workers" let them speak. But they can not enter our unions and divert them from their purpose.

We believe in free speech. We declare that any denial of this fundamental guarantee will eventually be extended to other citizens. This is the historic result of failure to protest against wrong.

Principle and self-preservation, therefore, compel us to battle for the right of every man to express himself without government interference.

But while we stand for free speech as a government policy, that does not mean that our trade unions should be thrown open to every one "with a message for the workers."

To all such we give the same answer they would receive from any other voluntary group of citizens—hire a hall.

It is a plea to the unthinking to say organized labor denies free speech because their energy and time is not placed at the disposal of self-styled "educators" who ignore our unions' objectives and who demand that they be heard.

## MEN TALK WITHOUT THINKING

A group of world saviors in New York City had a joint debate on the "immediate formation of a new progressive, political party."

A political party along the lines of the La Follette movement of 1924 was urged, while each speaker exalted the "class consciousness" of the British Labor party.

If the debaters knew the different backgrounds of American and British workers they would be equipped to discuss this question.

Because they are not, they believe in salvation by proxy—that a political party can be formed by a select group of self-constituted "leaders" mapping out a program and resolving.

Little attention need be given men who base their political party hopes on the La Follette movement of 1924.

This movement had none of the characteristics of a political party. One man announced his candidacy for president on a platform he himself prepared. Trade unionists, in line with their historic policy, supported this individual.

That movement can not be compared with a political party that elects delegates to a convention, prepares a platform and nominates candidates.

Who said sloppy thinking is the bane of our country?

## SPRAY-GUN PAINTING ENDANGERS HEALTH

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 5.—Commissioner of Labor Hoffman supports the claim by organized painters that the spray-gun method of applying paint endangers the health of operators.

In a letter to Governor Emerson, Mr. Hoffman declares that "extremely dangerous and poisonous substances" are used. These poisons include benzol and lead. The commissioner recommends that manufacturers should, as far as possible, eliminate these poisons from their products.

The Wyoming Federation of Labor is assisting painters in their fight against this occupational disease.

## JUSTICE IS EXPENSIVE

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 5.—"Justice is our most expensive commodity," said Franklin D. Roosevelt in his inaugural address as successor to Governor Smith.

"The questionable taking of jurisdiction by federal courts, the gradual erection of a body of court made law, the astuteness of our legal brethren, the possible temporary capitulation of our public servants and even of a dormant public opinion itself, may, in the future, as in the past, nullify the rights of the public," said the new state executive.

## NEW MINISTER OF LABOR

Mexico City, Jan. 5.—President Portes Gill has appointed Ramon De Negri to the post of Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor. He succeeds Luis N. Morones, president of the Mexican Federation of Labor.

The new appointee is present minister to Germany and prior to that was consul general at New York.

## BUSINESS MEN MAY "ROCK THE BOAT" IF THEY PERMIT EXCESS PRODUCTION

New York, Jan. 5.—While workers are urged to work harder and produce more, the Annalist, a business men of dangers that will follow too much output. This authoritative financial journal is circulated in business circles.

"The cheerful conditions of the moment," says the Annalist, "are due to an approximate rough balance among producers who have in the aggregate a capacity to swamp all markets with a deluge of goods; and a continuance of the present appearance of comparative safety on the trade and production side rests on the hope that nobody will try to rock the boat by producing too much.

"It seems unavoidable that the automobile industry should rock the boat very early in 1929. How far the consequences of such imprudence might spread is a question that one might prefer not to have answered in the near future, while bank credit is grievously inflated and major sources of credit are largely at the mercy of corporate exigencies."

## RAILROADS REPORT EFFICIENCY GAINS

Washington, Jan. 5.—The greatest operating efficiency and economy in their history is reported by railroads for 1928. Fewer trains and locomotives, in proportion to the amount of traffic hauled, than ever before were required.

The average load per train was the highest ever reported, having been 2.6 per cent greater in the first 10 months of 1928 than in the same period in 1927. The distance traveled each day per freight train averaged more than 307 miles, an increase of approximately 20 per cent over 1923, when the average was 259 miles.

The number of tons of freight moved one mile by a train per hour was greater in 1928 than ever before. Freight traffic was handled with the greatest conservation of fuel ever reported, coal consumption per thousand gross ton miles having been 125 pounds, compared with 129 pounds in 1927.

## 5 DAYS FOR WORKERS; 6 DAYS FOR MACHINE

Detroit, Jan. 5.—The Ford Motor Company will continue the five-day week, but will operate on the six-day basis for automobile output. The five-day week has been in operation since 1926.

Welfare workers in this city join with the company in warning outside workers that local unemployed can meet all requirements.

## Workers Stung By Stock Ownership; Weep In Vain Over Loss of Savings

Boston, Jan. 5.—The Shoe Workers' Journal draws a moral from the collapse of the Converse Rubber Shoe Company, whose failure caused loss of savings of employes who were induced to buy stock in that concern.

It is estimated that the maximum value of the stock will be 28 cents on the dollar. This will be used to pay the creditors. Many of the workers attended the federal court and were loud in their lamentations over the loss of their savings.

**"If employes invest in the stock of employing corporations, they must take their chances with all the other stockholders," says Charles L. Baine, editor of the Shoe Workers' Journal. "The stock of small holders has no special privilege. There are no exceptions in favor of the wage earner stockholder.**

"The property of any business belongs first to its creditors. After creditors are satisfied then come the bondholders, and after that the stockholders. In the Converse case there were bondholders but these will get nothing because the assets of the company are said to be only sufficient to pay the creditors 28 cents on the dollar.

"Some of the newspaper headlines are misleading. For instance—'Proposed reorganization will ruin many.' This is not strictly true. Their money is already lost. Not the reorganization but the previous unprofitable business lost their money.

"Another headline says: 'Stockholders' equity to be wiped out, court told.' Stockholders have no equity unless the business is solvent after all other claims prior to stockholders are satisfied.

"These are some of the hard facts of business law which workers should think of before handing their savings to some one to play with.

"Stress is laid on inducements by which employes are influenced to invest. These are of no value, once the worker becomes a stockholder, especially if the concern is financially embarrassed. The safe thing for wage earners is to let all such ventures alone."

## DISPLACED BRITISH WORKERS PAID STATED SUM BY EMPLOYER

London, England, Jan. 5.—Workers of Rowntree & Co., leading cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, will be paid for a period of 12 months. This will be additional to wages they may earn elsewhere during that period.

The weekly contribution will be £2 ($10) for each displaced worker.

Mr. Seebohm Rowntree, president of the company, disavowed any philanthropic motive in the venture. "We believe it is common sense," he said. "We can only maintain what we believe to be the solution of many difficulties of British industry by paying the highest possible wages industry can afford.

"We have no intention of getting rid of a whole lot of men all at once, because we feel that it is the duty of employers, as far as they possibly can, to face the difficulties which arise from changing economic conditions jointly with their workers.

"The economic condition—the change from hand work to machine work—is not of our making."

## CHAIN STORE SYSTEM ON ILLINOIS FARMS

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Banks and insurance companies that own mortgaged farms are applying the mass production system on this land.

The "chain farm" scheme is used on 32 farms totaling 7,500 acres in this state. Each farm is operated by a tenant under the direction of a general superintendent.

It was found that where an average farm in the district formerly produced 40 bushels of corn to the acre at a cost of $26, "chain farm" methods resulted in 70 bushels at a cost of $29.

The scheme will result in greater profit but it will make tenants of farmers, who will work under the system now applied in steel mills and retail "chain stores."

The Chicago Tribune declares that the "chain farm" is a certainty, but unless it is operated by farmers themselves the system will prove "socially unwholesome."

"We will sooner or later have to face and answer the question whether the small independent farmer is the size of productive unit and the form of productive organization best adapted to the new conditions of agriculture," said Virgil Jordan, chief economist of the National Industrial Conference Board, representing a score of employers' organizations.

## BACK PAY URGED

Washington, Jan. 5.—A retroactive clause to provide for government employes who received only one-half the salary increase under the Welch act will be urged by the joint committee of Congress which has been recommended to Chairman Lehlbach of the House Civil Service Committee by President Arthur C. Steward of the National Federation of Federal Employes.

Employes who were supposed to receive a $120 or $200 increase were advanced only $60 or $100, said President Steward.

### LABOR BANK EXPANDS

New York, Jan. 5.—The Federation Bank and Trust Company, Peter J. Brady, president, voted an extra dividend of $3 a share, which brings a return of $10 a share for 1928. The company is owned by 40 international trade unions and 150 local unions. It started in May, 1927, with resources of $500,000 that now total $21,000,000.

## RAILROAD FIGHTS LAW THAT PROTECTS LABOR

New Orleans, Jan. 5.—The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals will this month consider an appeal of the Texas & New Orleans railroad against a decision by Federal Judge J. C. Hutcheson, Jr. (Houston, Texas, district), that the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks may organize and that the carrier can not force them to join a company "union."

The workers have this right under the Federal Railway Act. The rail managers are fighting to maintain their company "union," and challenge the constitutionality of the law. They declare they will carry the case to the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Hutcheson's decision is a sweeping denial of the managers' attempt to smash the clerks' union. He threatened to jail the managers if they ignore his order.

The law gives workers the right to organize as they see fit and compels managers to recognize such organization. This is a challenge to the company "union" System, which is operating on many anti-union roads.

The Texas & Pacific is a subsidary of the anti-union Southern Pacific railroad.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPPOSE SHIPSTEAD BILL

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States opposes the Shipstead anti-injunction bill.

The protest was submitted to Senator Norris by William Butterworth, president of the chamber.

Mr. Butterworth's objections are along the usual lines—that the jurisdiction of federal courts should not be touched.

Mr. Butterworth seems to believe that laws should accord with the wishes of his organization, as he says the principles contained in the Shipstead bill "are contrary to the declarations as to principle made by our membership."

## Gambling and Inflated Currency Is Base For "Illusory Prosperity"

Chicago, Jan. 5.—The importance to labor of a sound currency system and a solid credit structure was indicated by Carl Snyder of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in an address to the American Statistical Association convention here. He said a debasement of currency results in an "illusory prosperity" and a "champaign jag" that is followed by widespread suffering.

Millionaires have increased from 7,000 in 1914 to between 30,000 and 40,000 in 1928, Mr. Snyder asserted.

"Possibly half or more of these have been created by the violent debasement in the value of currency which has taken place since the beginning of the war," he said. "A considerable part of the present number of millionaires must be due, also, to the enormous rise in the value of securities since the war and to the colossal manipulation in security values, incomparably the greatest gamble the world has ever known.

**"Years of unusual expansion are paid for by lean years of depression and unemployment, often involving widespread suffering. What hopes are brought low, fortunes are wrecked and worst of all, the business and economic morale of the nation is undermined.**

"The apparent gains of prosperity, or at least of booms, are largely illusory and in so far as they are a reality have been, in the past, at least, too dearly paid for. True prosperity —that is, the natural diffusion of comfort and well being amongst the largest possible number of the population—is not dependent upon inflation and boom.

"Clearly, we do not need a debasement of the currency of exchange or a frenzied commotion of speculation in stocks to assure this condition of well being. We have this enjoy at other times without the attachment of a champaign jag."